

Wadie was the first Iraqi-born American ever elected to public office in the United States. He served in the state legislature for 27 years—first in the Assembly, then in the Senate.

He was known as the “Father of CalTrans” because he introduced and guided the legislation that created California’s Department of Transportation.

During the dedication of a new CalTrans Building in Old Town in San Diego—a building that was being named after him—Wadie recalled the first time he ran for office in 1966. He was told Wadie Deddeh was a funny name and he might want to change it. He acknowledged it was a funny name but he would not be changing it. “People can vote for Wadie P. Deddeh or they don’t have to vote for me,” he said.

He was deeply proud of his Iraqi Chaldean heritage. And he was deeply proud to be an American.

In 1979, during the height of the hostage crisis in Iran when 52 Americans were held 444 days, the United States sought to re-establish diplomatic relations with Iraq. President Jimmy Carter asked Wadie if he would go to Iraq and meet with Iraq’s Foreign Minister in this effort. He said he would of course return to his homeland on behalf of America.

While that initial effort to restore diplomacy was not successful, it showed the status he had not only in our state but the nation.

Born in Baghdad, Wadie emigrated to America in 1947. His story is a shining example of the positive impact immigration has—and continues to have—on the United States. Wadie epitomized public service—an example that lives on in his son Peter, a Superior Court Judge.

I worked with Wadie on numerous efforts and experienced firsthand the highly respected judgment associated with him.

My deepest condolences go out to his family. They can take pride in knowing that an Iraqi immigrant, inspired by the words of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, left a legacy in California that lives on to this day.

As Wadie was known to say, “Only in America.”

IN APPRECIATION OF JANE WITTMAYER AND HER SERVICE TO IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Wittmeyer for her incredible service she has given to the great state of Idaho as she retires from Wittmeyer and Associates.

One of the greatest aspects of being a public servant is meeting people like Jane. Over the years, my staff and I have relied on Jane for her guidance and expertise in several areas, particularly related to our forests, natural resources and agriculture. Jane can bring people together by building coalitions to solve issues by finding creative solutions with minimal impact. This is a skillset that few people possess, and our society certainly needs more problem-solvers like Jane.

Jane’s resume is also extremely impressive, from her exceptional academic education receiving her MBA in International Business and PhD in Public Administration, to her incredible work ethic running her own company, to her athletic achievements in cross country and Tae Kwon Do. Simply put, there is very little that Jane can’t and hasn’t accomplished.

There is a personal side to Jane as well. Whenever you see her, she greets you with a warm smile, asks about your work and family and is happy to share stories of her own children and husband. She is a dedicated mother, wife and a fiercely loyal friend.

I consider Jane a good friend, so it is hard to imagine Idaho Agriculture Industry without her at the table. Congratulations Jane, enjoy retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF RAMIAH ELIZABETH LEONARD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention to recognize the life of Ramiah Elizabeth Leonard.

Ramiah was born on February 16, 2009 to Eugene and Rasheda Leonard in Jacksonville, Alabama. They chose a very special name for their special delivery who was born on her mother’s birthday. Her godparents, Sherman and Latoya Young, Jr., were named at her birth.

Princess Ramiah was a sassy toddler and grew into an active child. She loved music, singing and dancing. She could always be found adorned in the latest fashions including glitter lip gloss.

She attended DeArmanville Elementary School and Oxford Elementary School. She was in fifth grade at C.E. Hanna Elementary School and a proud member of the Jacket Singing Sensations. She also attended the TLC Camp Life Enrichment After School program.

Ramiah accepted Christ at the age of eight under the leadership of her father. She loved Jesus Christ and was an active member of The Life Center Church.

On August 30, 2019 at 8:08 am, Ramiah passed away exchanging her princess crown for a set of wings. Her legacy will live on through her parents.

Madam Speaker, please join me in remembering the life of Ramiah Elizabeth.

CONGRATULATING BRADLEY COUNTY 4-H

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I extend my deepest congratulations to Bradley County’s 4-H Forestry Team on their exceptional representation of Arkansas at the 40th Annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational.

Braden Harrod, Gregory Hilliard, David McGhee, and Madison McGhee from Hermitage, Arkansas were named National Cham-

pions at the 4-H Forestry Invitational, leading Coach Joe Don Greenwood and Bradley County to their third championship title since 2016. In addition to this honor, Braden Harrod won the high point individual award at the competition.

The national event featured skills testing in various areas such as tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, forest evaluation, the forestry bowl, and a written forestry exam.

Coach Greenwood and these students exhibited exemplary work ethic and superior skill in preparation for the championship. As a fellow forester, it is encouraging to see young Fourth District Arkansans nurture a knowledge of good resource management and stewardship. I look forward to witnessing the further success of these students as they continue to represent our district and state on a national level.

HONORING DR. WALTER S. MCAFEE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as a result of legislation I introduced (H.R. 3655) which was signed into law (P.L. 115–151), more than 200 people gathered outside the U.S. Post Office located on Main Street in Belmar, NJ at a ceremony to rename the building in honor of Dr. Walter S. McAfee—an extraordinary scientist, educator, and innovator.

Attending the event were many family members, friends and coworkers of Dr. McAfee’s, including his sister, Velma McAfee-Williams, who turned 90 last week, and his daughters Marsha McAfee Bera-Morris and Diane Mercedes McAfee.

Also present to pay tribute to Dr. McAfee was: Belmar Mayor Mark Walsifer; USPS South Jersey District Manager James Drummer; Belmar Postmaster John Mutchler, III; Mike Ruane, the CEO of InfoAge Science & History Center; and elected officials from Monmouth County, neighboring Lake Como and Wall Township.

Dr. McAfee was a brilliant scientist. His breakthrough research and mathematical theories led to bouncing radio signals off the moon’s surface. His unique work served as the forerunner for satellite communications, entry into the space age, moonshots and moonwalks.

Dr. McAfee is also known for his many innovations and successful projects including sensors he pioneered to assist the military in keeping tabs on aggressive actors—tools that saved the lives of many Americans and our allies.

And we remembered and honored Dr. McAfee for his lifelong commitment to learning—including his tenure as a professor at Monmouth College and service as Chairman of the Board at Brookdale Community College.

As an African-American, Dr. McAfee overcame adversity and prejudice with courage, tenacity and faith. His amazing life inspires. He challenges us to strive for excellence. He is truly a role model.